

Message Text

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ACTION FBOE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 /011 W
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R 190504Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4624

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0233

E.O.; 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT FBO DECORATOR

REF: (A) 75 JIDDA 8268 (NOTAL), (B) JIDDA 0298, (C) JIDAA 0877 (NOTAL
)

1. WITH SHARPLY INCREASED TRADE PROMOTION AND AMCIT PROTECTION ACTIVITY AT THIS POST DUE TO SAUDI ARABIA'S REMARKABLE ECONOMIC BOOM AND RAPID EXPANSION OF U.S. COMMUNITY HERE (IN EXCESS OF 60 PER CENT INCREASE IN TOTAL AMCIT RESIDENTS IN 9 MONTHS LAST YEAR), WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL APPEARANCE OF OUR REPRESENTATIONAL AND PUBLIC-USE AREAS. THIS IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT BECAUSE MANY OF OUR FACILITIES WERE UNFORTUNATELY NOT PROPERLY MAINTAINED DURING EARLY SEVENTIES WHEN CONGEN RESPON-

SIBILITIES IN NEIGHBORING GULF AREAS (AND CONSEQUENTLY CONGEN BUDGET AND STAFF) WERE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED.

2. FURNITURE PRESENTLY IN USE IN CONGEN OFFICE BUILDING IS OF VINTAGE WHEN POST WAS OPENED OVER THIRTY YEARS AGO. STODGY IN DESIGN, IT IS WORN, FRAYED AND DISCOLORED FROM DECADES OF DESERT USE. QUALITY OF WORKMANSHIP AND COST OF LOCAL ARTISANS MAKE IT IMPRUDENT TO REUPHOLSTER OR REFINISH FURNITURE. GIVEN COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THIS POST, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT CONGEN PROJECT FRESH AND FLOURISHING IMAGE TO BUSINESS VISITORS WHICH ONLY NEW FURNISHINGS CAN CONVEY.

3. POST PLANS TO EMBARK ON PROGRAM OF GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF
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OFFICE FURNITURE. OUR EFFORTS ARE HINDERED BY LACK OF CATALOGS

ON SUITABLE OFFICE FURNITURE (INCLUDING CHAIRS, TABLES, COUCHES), CARPETS, ETC.

4. CONGEN HAS DISCUSSED THIS PROBLEM WITH EMBASSY JIDDA, AND BOTH CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT FBO DECORATOR VISIT DHAHRAN IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING TRIP TO JIDDA. WE APPRECIATE THAT THIS CHANGE MAY POSE DIFFICULTIES FOR DECORATOR, BUT BELIEVE IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AND A GOOD INVESTMENT TO OBTAIN PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE IN SELECTING THE MOST SUITABLE FURNISHINGS AVAILABLE, WHICH CAN BE USED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

5. EMBASSY WISHES DECORATOR TO KNOW THAT IT WILLING TO HANDLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRAVEL WITHING SAUDI ARABIA IF THOSE CHANGES ARE DIFFICULT TO MAKE IN WASHINGTON. DHAHRAN VISIT CAN BE RELATIVELY BRIEF, AND EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT THAT NECESSARY ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE CONCERNING THE REQUIRED TIEM AND TRAVEL PLANS.

6. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY AND CONGEN OF DECORATOR'S WILLINGNESS TO ADD DHAHRAN TO ITINERARY AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS.

7. FOR JIDDA: REQUISITIONS REQUESTED BY REF C BEING HELD PENDING ARRIVAL OF FBO DECORATOR.
BUSHNELL

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